casualties are minimum and at the same time it proves punitive and effective in nature.

(a) At times, such firing incidents do affect the normal life of the people living in border areas.

(b) Pakistani forces resort to unprovoked firing in order to aid and abet infiltration of foreign militants and smuggling of arms and ammunition into J & K with the over all aim of perpetuating militancy in the state and keeping the Kashmir issue live.

There are adequate provisions in the Liberalised Pension Scheme for Armed Forces personnel in order to compensate for the casualty suffered by them due to firing at the border. In order to alleviate the sufferings of civilian population in the Kargil sector due to Pakistani firing in September 1997, relief has been sanctioned from Prime Minister's Relief Fund in addition to the relief sanctioned by the State Government.

Statement

Petails of Firing and Casualty at the Indo-Pak Border during May to October 1997

Sector	No. of	Army		BSF		*Civilians*	
		K	W	K	W	K	XV
Siachen Glacier	171	2	21	—	3	24	35
LOC	1618	11	44	—	4	8	15
IB	147		11				
Total	1936	13	76	—	7	32	50

K : Kiled
W : Wounded
LOC : Line of Control
IB : International Border

Supply of Bullet Proof Jackets to jawans

55. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA': SHRI AKHILESH DAS:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(b) whether it is a fact that Army's demand for purchase of bullet proof jackets for soldiers employed in Jammu and North-East has been pending for the last two years;

(c) whether it is also a fact that soldiers are being killed in insurgency affected areas in the country due to non-supply of bullet proof Jackets to them;

(a) if so, the number of those killed on that account during the last two years; and

(b) the reasons for non-supply of such Jackets to jawans?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV): (a) No, Sir. A proposal for purchase of Bullet-proof jackets was received in June, 1997. Procurement of Jackets is being made on emergent basis.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. No such inference can possibly be drawn.

(d) The Army is equipped with Bullet-proof jackets and its procurement is a recurring feature.